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Applicant(s): Lemelson
Application: 07/049,381
Filed: 13 May 1987

Notice of Interference

The captioned patent application is involved in interference number 103,800. The attached appendix provides the details of the interference.

35 U.S.C. § 135(c) Notice

Any agreement or understanding between parties to an interference, including any collateral agreements referred to therein, made in connection with or in contemplation of the termination of the interference, shall be in writing and a true copy thereof filed in the Patent and Trademark Office before the termination of the interference as between the said parties to the agreement or understanding. If any party filing the same so requests, the copy shall be kept separate from the file of the interference, and made available only to Government agencies on written request, or to any person on a showing of good cause. Failure to file the copy of such agreement or understanding shall render permanently unenforceable such agreement or understanding and any patent of such parties involved in the interference or any patent subsequently issued on any application of such parties so involved. The Commissioner may, however, on a showing of good cause for failure to file within the time prescribed, permit the filing of the agreement or understanding during the six month period subsequent to the termination of the interference as between the parties to the agreement or understanding.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Torczon", followed by a horizontal line.

RICHARD TORCZON
Administrative Patent Judge

Attachment: Appendix I

APPENDIX I - 37 CFR § 1.611(c)

A. The junior party

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4. Patent: 4,369,563 B1, issued 13 May 1986
(90/000,643, filed 3 October 1984)
5. Accorded benefit: 4,369,563 A, issued 25 January 1983
(05/085,289, filed 29 October 1970);
04/695,817, filed 4 December 1967
(abandoned); and
04/636,993, filed 8 May 1967 (abandoned).

B. The senior party

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3. Assignee: Lemelson Medical, Education & Research
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4. Application: 07/049,381, filed 13 May 1987
5. Accorded benefit: 06/251,656, filed 6 April 1981
(abandoned);
06/091,908, filed 6 November 1979
(abandoned);
05/107,357, filed 18 January 1971
(abandoned);
04/858,560, filed 29 August 1969
(3,854,889, issued 17 December 1974); and
04/629,758, filed 10 April 1967
(abandoned)

C. Count I:

(Williamson claim 206 or Lemelson claim 21)

A control system for controlling a plurality of numerically controlled machine tools capable of selectively performing similar or different machining operations on parts delivered to said machine tools, which parts may be the same or different and each of which has a process indicia associated therewith, comprising:

- storage means adapted for storing a plurality of selectively accessible parts while they are not being machined;
- means for delivering selected of said parts from said storage means to selected of said machine tools;
- central computer means comprising a plurality of programs for controlling machining operations at all of the machine tools;
- data link means coupling said computer means to each of said machine tools to transmit a program from said computer means to any one of said machine tools; and
- control means responsive to any one of said process indicia for coupling to any one of said machine tools the program from said central computer means which controls the machining operation to be performed on a selected part delivered to said one machine tool and which part is identified by the process indicia associated therewith.

Corresponding claims

Williamson : 153, 154, 175, 203, 206, 233, and 239

Lemelson: 11, 12, 18, 20, 21, 27, and 28

Count II:

(Williamson claim 212 or Lemelson claim 22)

A control system for controlling a plurality of numerically controlled machine tools, some of which are capable of performing similar machining operations on a part, comprising:

- central computer means having a memory for storing a plurality of different programs, each program providing information for controlling more than one of said plurality of machine tools to produce the same series of machining operations on a part;

- a plurality of data link means coupling said computer means to each of said plurality of machine tools in order to transmit a program stored in said memory to any one of said plurality of machine tools;
- a central supply adapted for storing a plurality of selectively accessible parts on which similar and different series of machining operations are to be performed by any one of said plurality of machine tools;
- means for conveying a selected part from said central supply to one of said plurality of machine tools;
- means responsive to the conveyance of said selected part for generating a signal which identifies the series of machining operations which are to be performed on said conveyed part;
- means for selecting the program stored in said memory which controls the same series of machining operations as identified by the signal from said generating means and for transmitting said last named program over the data link connected to the machine tool to which said part has been conveyed.

Corresponding claims

Williamson : 156 and 212

Lemelson: 13 and 22

Count III:

(Williamson claim 215 or Lemelson claim 23)

A machine tool installation for machining workpieces comprising:

- (a) a plurality of complementary numerically controlled machine tools located adjacent a predetermined path,
- (b) storage means located adjacent said path and adapted for storing a plurality of selectively accessible workpieces,
- (c) transport means for transporting selected workpieces between said storage means and said machine tools along said path from which there is access to said selectively accessible workpieces in the storage means and each of the machine tools and operable to convey selected workpieces independently of other workpieces, and
- (d) central programmed control means and data link means coupling said control means to each of said

machine tools to transmit a program from said control means to any one of said machine tools to control each of said machine tools so that each machine tool to which a selected workpiece is delivered by said transport means performs on said selected workpiece at least one predetermined machining operation.

Corresponding claims

Williamson : 163, 166, 167, 171, 188, 215, 218, 221,
230, 248, and 249

Lemelson: 14-17, 19, and 23-26